



Fire Department

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **WATER SAFETY**

In 2006, the Milwaukee Fire Department had 22 requests for rescues from the many different waterways in Milwaukee. Between 1998 and 2006, the MFD responded to the Kinnickinnic River 27 times, with 2 fatalities, and 15 times to the Menominee River, with 5 fatalities, including 2 sisters. In our recent memory are also the two sisters who drowned in the Milwaukee River in May of 2004.

The Milwaukee Fire Department is asking everybody to use caution near the rivers and lagoons in Milwaukee. With warmer weather, no ice should be considered safe. Parents should discuss water safety with their children even if they do not live near one of our waterways.

If someone falls into the water, DO NOT go in to try and rescue him or her. Use something like a rope to throw to the person. Call 911 and stay at the scene.

The Milwaukee Fire Department is continuing to improve its ability to assist the public. In 2007 the department will receive a new fireboat for responses on the rivers and Lake Michigan, and a new sonar system for use in all waterways to assist in finding objects under water. The Dive Rescue Team will also receive new equipment to keep the department 's divers safe during rescue operations.

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